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MHQ-2018
11 February 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: All Bureau Chiefs

FROM:

Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

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SUBJECT:

Queries Regarding FBIS

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REFERENCE:

Memorandum to Bureau Chiefs from D/FBIS, Subj: "FBIS Affiliation," 19 Apr 1978

1. On occasion newsmen or other non-official persons ask about FBIS. The best policy is to say as little as possible. The purpose of this memorandum, however, is to reiterate our policy on what you and the Embassy may say regarding FBIS when you get an inquiry.

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2. Recently we were asked by State Department to provide a brief statement for the press in Swaziland. The statement we cabled to Mbabane is as follows: "FBIS is charged with reporting on behalf of the U.S. Government information openly collected from public information media. Its products are available to all interested agencies of the U.S. Government, as well as to the general public and foreign governments, by subscription through the National Technical Information Service of the U.S. Department of Commerce. FBIS has operated in this capacity since 1941."

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3. In 1978 we sent to the bureau chiefs a more comprehensive statement that could be used to respond to inquiries. That statement is attached to this memorandum as a reminder. The Department of State asks that you keep new ambassadors and/or DCM's informed of the attached so that they will be in a position to handle media questions.

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We recognize that this attached statement is not suitable for all situations; in Japan, for example, we are sponsored by the U.S. Forces Japan Headquarters, and we will rely on the Okinawa Bureau to keep the proper authorities in Tokyo aware of what may be said to the press.

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Attachment:

As stated

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